Name of the projects	Reasons in brief
7. Hotel at Goa (JV) *	The project could not be taken up for want of concurrence of the State Govt. to joint venture concept and a suitable site
8. Hotel at Kanpur	The project could not be taken up for want of a suitable site
9. Expansion of Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur	The projects were deferred due to thrust at Delhi based hotels for NAM/CHOGM' 83
10. Expansion of Hotel at Hassan (Phase II)	The projects was deferred in view of the distrubed conditions in neighbouring states
11. Epansion of Trvavellers Lodge at Manali	
12. Expansion of Travelle s Lodge at Thanjavur	These projects were deferred in view of the policy decision of exploing possibilities of Transferring small /uneconomical units to the concerned state Govts.
13. Expansion of Travellers Lodge at Konark	
14. Expansion of Temple Bay Mahabalipuram	The project could not be taken up due to sea erosion problem and study for the safety of the the projects

*Stands for Joint venture

Halley's Comet

2779. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO IADHAV:

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

<a) what programmes *'aav*$_e$ bee$_n$ planned by the Indian-Scientists and Astronomers as part of International Halley Watch: and

<b) what are the laboratories and research centres where these preparations for observing and studying Halley's Comet are being made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH NOLOGY AND IN THE DEPART MENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAI PATIL): (a) and (b) The salient features cf the Indian Halley Observation Programme for Halley's Watch are observation by all major Indian Observatories and Research Institutes including the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Uttar Pradesh Solar Observatory, Centre for Advance Studies in Astronomy, Physical Research Laboratory, Tata Institute of Fundamental Reasearch and the Positional Astronomy Centre. The preparation and conduct of the total Indian Programme is being funded jointly by the Department of Science and Technology and this Department and coordinate by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. The observations planned will throw light on many aspects of cometary phenomena, like astrometry, large scale phenomena near nuclear studies, Polari-mitry. and Spectrophoto metry etc. It is also planned to exchange information and results from the Indian Programme with similar data from the International Halley Watch Programme. How-ever, the Indian Programme is not part of the International programme. In addition to the above, it is expected that a number of Indian scientists and amateurs will make observations of ihe comet.

Antarctica expeditions

2780. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHABRAO IADHAV:

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the scientific achievements of the last four Antarctica expeditions;

(b) whether any new discovery has been made in this regard; and

• (c) whether the fifth Antarctica expedition plans undertaken an indepth study of earlier incomplete research projects or any new research programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Scientific achievements of the last four Indian expeditions to Antarctica include the followiing:

(i) Creation of the requisite infrastructure and facilities in Antarctica and the establishment of a permanent station in Antarctica for scientific work throughout the year;

(ii) Establishment of communication links between India and Antarctica through satellite and HF;

(iii) Continued investigations in various disciplines of Polar Science;

(iv) By virtue of the scientific work done during the expeditions, India acquired the status of a Consultative Parly in the Antarctic Treaty mechanism and has also been unanimously elected as a Member of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

(b) Some of the notable scientific findings include:

(i) Occurrences of geomagnetic storms in Antarctica:

(ii) Unusual radiowavc transmission characteristics in Antarctica;

(iii) Peculiar chemical characteristics of the seas around Antarctica;

(iv) Occurrence of an undersea mount:

(v) Knowledge of the weather pattern during the winter period using an automatic. solar-powered. unmanned weather station established by India during the first expedition.

(vi) New microoragnisms which could have imprints of the primitive cell as they lived in the past during the glacial age at sub-zero conditions.

(c) Yes, Sir. The planning and preparation of the fifth expedition is under way and will take into account both the aspects.

Loss of Forest Cover

278 L. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

PROF B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be plea-sed to state:

(a) what is the area under forestry cover iin the country the rate of loss and area planted during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have any long range plan to cover earge barren iands with forests; and

(c) if so; what target has been fixed, upto the end of 2000 AD and during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI V1R SEN): (a) The area registered as forest in the country is 74.87 million hectares as on 31-12-1983. The annual rate of loss of forest cover dining the last five years, on account of diversion of forest land to' non-forest use under the Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 is about 6500 ha. No information is available in regard to forest cover lost on account of illicit felling and encroachment. The total area planted during the last five years is 4.65 million hectares.

(b) and (c) Government have set up a National Wastelands Development Board with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantations. No target has been fixed for the period ending 2000 AD. The Seventh Five Year Plan proposals are yet to be finalised.

Air services from Nagpur to Madras, Delhi and Calcutta

2782. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government^ consideration to restart